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Something in

ANSWER

TO A

LETTER

(Which I have ſeen) Of

John Leverat Governour of *Boſton*,

TO

William Coddington Governour of *Rode-Iſland*,

Dated, 1677.

Wherein he mentions my Name, and alſo wherein *John Leverat* juſtifies *Roger Williams*'s BOOK of LYES.

JOhn Leverat ſaith, *I am not aſham'd to own my taking Care for, and being at the Charge of the coming forth of* Roger Williams's *Book, entituled,* Gorge Fox digged out of his Borrows — *And in it there is aſſerting many great Truths, which they, you call Friends, turn from, &c.*— And thou ſayſt concerning the reſt of *William Coddington's* Letter, Thou *wouldeſt leave it to* R. Williams, *who is better able to anſwer then thy ſelf,* &c.

Anſw. And yet thou Patronizeſt his Book, and art at the Charge of bringing it forth. But what *Truths* thoſe are,

which

which *William Coddington*'s Friends *have turned from*, thou hast not declared; so these are but general *Calumnies*. For there are no Truths, either from God or Christ, Prophets or Apostles, but we own them all. And thou who hast been found in the Steps of the former Persecutors of the Servants of the Lord (as instance the persecuting *Margaret Brewster*) it was likely, that thou wouldst be at the Charges of Printing and Patronizing *Roger Williams* his Book of *Forgeries* and *Lyes*, rather than to encourage *Truth*. But how darest thou or *Roger Williams* professing Truth or Christianity) say, *That* he *digged* George Fox *out of his Burrows*, when that he neither spoke to him nor writ to him, when *G. F.* was at *Rode-Island*, and at *Providence*, and at *Narraganset* some Moneths? when all this time *Roger Williams* lay in his own Burrows (as he phraseth it. And did not your Priests at *Boston* lie in their Burrows when *James Lancaster* and *John Stubbs* desired a publick Discourse with them, though they could not allow them the Title, as true *Christians*, because of their Bloody Persecuting Spirit? And why could not your Priests have discoursed with *M. Brewster*, but deliver'd her up to the Barbarous Multitude, and to the secular Power, *Papist* like? And thou giving command to Whip her, and cast her into Goal; Was she a *Gain sayer*? where were your Priests that they could not stop her Mouth then? were not your Priests in their *Burrows*? If she had not been sent of God its like thou mightst have been at Charges to have sent for *R. Williams* to have helpt you, and digged him out of his Burrows. It is a Shame for you to feed a Company of Priests in their Burrows, when that a poor simple Woman should leave her Family, and come some Thousands of Miles, and be as a *Sign* among you of your *Shame* and *Nakedness* of God's Armour and Spiritual Weapons, who had no better Entertainment from you but *Blows* and *Prisons*, and your *Whips* and *Stocks*, which manifests your *Diabolical Spirit*, which thou speakest of (and not the Spirit of Christ) and your Nakedness of the Armour of God and spiritual Weapons, and your Poverty of Heavenly Vertue and Spiritual Treasure. For were not your People as *Mad* in an *Uproar*, like *Diana*'s People against *Paul*, and as *Mad* as the *Jews* were

were againſt *Chriſt* and his *Apoſtles*? And was not all *Jeruſalem* in an *Uproar* when Chriſt was born, who were as great Profeſſors of God, and Chriſt to come, as you are? And were not the *Jews* in an *Uproar* againſt *Paul*, when he went into the Temple and ſhaved his Head?

And did not *Iſaiah* go Three Years *Barefoot* and *Naked*, and a *Sign* and a *Wonder*, with his Buttocks uncovered, *Iſa.* 20? And have not you appeared as *Cruel* as the *Ægyptians*, and as *Black* as the *Ethiopians*? And doth not the Prophet *Iſaiah* ſay, *Behold I and the Children which God hath given me, are for* Signs *and for* Wonders *in* Iſrael (*Iſaiah* 8. and *Heb.* 2.) So they have been for *Signs* and for *Wonders* to you. Was *Iſaiah* led with a *Diabolical Spirit* when the Lord commanded him to *ſtrip* himſelf and go NAKED ſo long? And was he in a *Diabolical Shape*? And wouldſt not thou and your Prieſts have perſecuted *Iſaiah* (if you had been in his dayes) when he *ſtript* himſelf, and went NAKED?

And how dareſt thou ſay, that you were the *Lord's People*, and were *peaceable and quiet in* your Aſſembly, *and Religiouſly Worſhipping God in his* Will, *according to his Word*? Which manifeſts, it was in your own *Wills*, your Fruits manifeſted it, by perſecuting her that came in the Will of God.

And thou ſayeſt, *What thou didſt therein* (viz. in perſecuting and whipping *Margaret Brewſter*) *was for the Lord, and by his Grace* (thou ſayeſt) *I ſhall be yet more Vile, &c.*

Anſw. I am ſorry to hear thee father thy Perſecution upon the Lord God, who is Love, &c. or ſeek to make the Lord and his Grace the Author or Cauſe of thy *bloody Perſecuting* of the Lord's Servant *Margaret Brewſter*, who came peaceably amongſt you in a Mournful State: For had not ſhe *Aſhes* upon her Head as a Sign, for the BLOOD of them which you had formerly put to Death, the MARTYRS of JESUS, and Whipt and Baniſhed? Had not you better have mourned in Duſt and Aſhes, than to have *Stript* and *Whipt* her ſo Cruelly as you did? And did not you ſeek to take away her Life? And will not the King of *Nineve* riſe up in Judgment againſt you, at the great Day of the Lord, who repented at the preaching of *Jonah*?

But

But Governour *Leverat*, seeing thou father'st thy WHIPPING and Persecuting of *Margaret Brewster* (that came peaceably amongst you) upon the Lord and his Grace; now I do demand of thee, and of all the Priests in *New-England*, where ever Christ or his Apostles, and the Church in the primitive Times, who were in the Grace of God did WHIP & *Imprison* any that came amongst them, as a *Sign*, as *Margaret Brewster* did to you some Thousands of Miles? For you profess the Scripture to be your Rule, therefore let me see any such Practice and Example in the New Testament. Nay, doth not the Apostle say, *That False Prophets, and False Apostles, and False Teachers, and Satan's Messengers were got among them*? But where did ever the true Apostles, and Prophets, and Teachers, and those that were Helps in Governments in the Church of Christ, in his Grace, WHIP, or Imprison, or Persecute, or HANG, or put to Death, or BRAND in the Forehead with an Hot Iron, and Spoil the Goods of the False Apostles, Satan's Messengers, False Teachers, or the Unruly Talkers, Vain Disputers, such as taught for Filthy Lucre, and minded Earthly Things, who served not the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own Bellies? I say, Where did ever the true Apostles and Teachers Whip, Hang, Brand with an Hot Iron, Banish upon Pain of Death, and Spoil the Goods of such in the Apostles dayes? Let thee, and all the *New-England* Priests come out of your Burrows, and give us Chapter and Verse for it? Or did ever the Bishops in Old *England* Hang and Whip, Cut off Ears and Banish upon pain of Death any of you, and Brand in the Forehead, as you have done to some of the Servants of God that came amongst you? And did ever Christ Hang, Whip, Cut off Ears, Brand in the Forehead with an Hot Iron, Banish upon pain of Death such as did oppose him, and did not receive him, and blaspheme against Christ in the dayes of his Flesh, which is the Son of God, and King of Kings, who said, *All Power in Heaven and Earth was given unto him*; a greater Power than all you of *New England* have. Let all your Priests come forth and give us Chapter and Verse for this your Practice, or else for shame never say more, that the *Scripture is your Rule*.

And

And is not this the Command of Christ (to them that would have pluckt up the *Tares*) *Let both* Tares *and* Wheat *grow together, till the Harvest, lest they pluck up the* Wheat, *&c.* And did not Christ Rebuke such, as would have had their Lives destroyed that did not receive him, and told them, *They did not know what Spirit they were of*, and how that he came to *save mens Lives, and not to destroy them*? And now have not *New-England*'s Priests and Professors manifested themselves, that they do not know their own Spirits, neither what Spirit they are of, who have Banished upon pain of Death, Branded in the Forehead with an Hot Iron, Cut off Ears, Spoiled their Goods, put to Death and Whipped, as you have done, like the *Papists* and the *Jews*? For indeed, the *Jews* Whipt the Apostles, and persecuted them; and therefore how can you have the Name of true *Christians*, which do not shew forth the Fruits of Christ's Spirit, but to be such as go in *Cain*'s Way, persecuting; and not in *Abel*'s. And Christ's Command was, *First to pluck the Beam out of their own Eye*, before they *judged* others. And now see if the Beam be pluckt out of thy own Eye, and of the Priests.

And as for thy saying, *There were many Truths in* Roger Williams's *Book, &c.*

Answ. The *Jews* and *Antichrists* may speak True Words, and yet out of Truth; and the *Devil* could speak Scriptures, who abode not in the Truth, and *there is no Truth in him.* And so may *Roger Williams* speak some True Words, but is manifestly out of it, as by his Book appears. And the Devil he was a Lyar and a Murderer from the beginning, and his Works you have done, as Christ said to the *Jews*, those great Professors. My Desires are, That you may give over your Work of Persecution, and come to be Meek and Humble, and Learn of Christ Jesus, who will never teach you to persecute. And do not father your Murdering, Bloody, Persecuting, Jewish and Popish Spirit upon God nor Christ, nor his Grace, because People will not bow to your Image, and receive your Rudiments and Traditions, and your Precepts you teach for Doctrine; but have neglected the Command of Christ, which is,

To love both Friends and Enemies. And you may see plainly, that Christ would have none put to Death for not receiving him; and told them then, *They did not know what Spirit they were of*: And is not Christ the same now, and this Persecuting Spirit the same now, as it was then, as your Fruits manifest? And therefore, how can you think that we can trust our Bodies, Souls and Spirits into your Hands, who do not know your own Spirits? But we commend them into the Hand of Christ Jesus, our Redeemer and Saviour, who hath bought us with his precious Blood.

And the Apostle saith, *Be not forgetful to Entertain Strangers, for some have entertained Angels unawares.* And both the Law and Gospel commend this Practice. But your Practice has clearly shewed the contrary. And therefore Repent, and while you have time prize it. And if you have no Command from Christ nor his Apostles (who say the *Scripture* is your *Rule* for your Faith, Doctrine and Practice) to Whip Men and Women till you cleaved the Teats of their Breasts (as you did to *Anne Coleman*) and to Cut Off Ears, and to Brand in the Forehead with an Hot Iron, and to Imprison and Banish upon Pain of Death, and to Hang, and to Spoil Goods (only upon the Account of Religion) and Seize upon Goods sent to others, that come by Ship, without giving any Account of them (as *William Coddington* Governour of *Rode-Island* demanded) Have you not practised all these things contrary to the Rule of the New Testament?

And when you fled out of Old *England*, upon the Account of Religion from the Bishops, and the KING was pleased to give you a *Patent*, did the King in his *Patent* allow or grant you, that you should Hang or Burn his Subjects with a Hot Iron, and Cut Off Ears, and Banish upon pain of Death, and Spoil their Goods, and whip such as were not of your Religion, for Religions sake? Look your *Patent*, and see if the King hath granted you that Liberty,

or you have gone contrary to it, and contrary to the Scriptures, Christ and the Apostles. And we cannot expect but that such a Spirit will promote and be at Charges of any Calumnious Book that is published against us; for *Herod* and *Pilate* were made Friends when they turned against Christ; and its like, you and *Roger Williams* are made Friends in your turning against God's People and his Truth now.

And were not *Roger Williams* and all your Priests in their Burrows when *G. F.* was in your Country, and never one appeared? And now to Rail behind his Back, when he is gone, and for thee to Patronize and be at Charges of *R. W*'s Book of Lyes, and Scoffing Title, to say, *That he digged* G F. *out of his Burrows*, and yet never appeared when *G. F.* was there in the Country, to speak or write to him. This brings not Credit to thee, nor you, nor him, neither as Men, nor as *Christians*: But its not my Desire, that thou and you should believe Lyes, who know the Portion of such; but that you may Repent, and do so no more, lest a worse thing come unto you.

G. F.

For all the Perfecuting Rulers, Prieſts and Officers in *New-England* to conſider theſe following QUERIES.

I. WHether or no, if another Power ſhould be ſet over you, and to bring you to conform to that Power's Religion that is ſet over you, that you would Loſe your GOODS, and have them SPOILED, and be Seized upon by Sea and Land, and have your EARS CUT OFF, and be BRANDED in the Forehead with an Hot Iron, and be caſt into thoſe Cold Priſons, and be WHIPPED in Priſon until your Bodies were like a Jelly; and be WHIPPED, Men and Women, through as many Towns as you have done the People of God in ſcorn called *Quakers*? Could you ſtand theſe things for your Religion, before you would conform and ſuffer the ſame Puniſhments for it, as you have inflicted upon others for your Religion? Or is your Religion worth Suffering for by you Prieſts and Rulers? and if not, then do not find fault with the *Quakers*, for not conforming to your Religion, that you dare not ſtand to your ſelves, when that you are tryed; which you do not know, how that you may be tryed for it before you Dye.

II. And alſo; Could you ſtand to your Religion, and be BANISHED upon pain of DEATH, from your Wives and Children, Lands, Houſes and Goods, and be HANGED upon Gallowſes, before that you would conform to another Religion that ſhould be ſet over you, as you have done to the People called *Quakers*; and have a great FINE ſet upon you for your Spreading, or Recommending, or Bringing any Books according to your Judgment of Religion? And whoſoever Receive any of your Friends, or Entertain them, to have a great FINE ſet upon them, as you have done to the *Quakers*?

So ſee if that you could bear and ſuffer for your Religion, as you

you have done to others, the same Punishments; and let us see if you do not that to others, which you would not have others to do unto you; and so see if that you be in the Practice either of the Law or Gospel, and not out of both: And what do you think of the *Presbyterians* and *Independents*, that did persecute *Friends* in other places where they had Power; and when they came to be try'd, how they did shrink themselves from that, their *Church-Faith* and *Directory*, and dare hardly mention it, or read it publickly; though they Persecuted and Imprisoned some Thousands of us, and some to Death, besides the spoiling of our Goods, only for Conscience sake, because we could not submit to their Wills.

And therefore consider you your selves, how you would stand, if that you come to the Day of your Tryal of God and Man; and therefore give over your Persecution either by Tongue or Hand, and *Do unto all men as you would have them do unto you*; and study to be quiet; for the Lord will render to every man according to his Works: and what account will you give unto the Lord at the Day of Judgment, when he cometh with all his holy Angels, to render Vengeance upon all Evil Doers, and to separate the Sheep from the Goats? I do fear many of you will be found Goats, and therefore you had better give over your *Cruelty* and *Persecution*, and break off your Sins by Repentance, that the Lord may shew you Mercy; and put off your *old man* with his *deeds*, and come to know what are the *fruits* of the *flesh* from the *fruits* of the *spirit*, seeing *every Tree is known by its fruit*; and read the *end* of the *evil tree*, & see which *tree* you are; for Christ saith, *It is not every one that saith* Lord, Lord, *that shall enter into the Kingdom of God*: and he speaketh of such as have preached Christ, and boast of what they have done; but he will say unto such, *Depart from me, ye Workers of Iniquity, I know you not.* And therefore examine your selves, whether you be not the people, yea or nay; for they that do enter into the *Kingdom of God*, are they that do the *Will of God*: And dare you say, that you have done the *Will of Christ*, or the *will and lusts* of the *Devil*, the *Destroyer*, that have thus *Persecuted* and *Murdered* God's People? And then consider into whose Kingdom you do enter. G. F.

POSTSCRIPT

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Governour *John Leverat*;

AS to the Great, Cruel and Bloody Perſecutions (her in mention'd) which the People of God called *Quakers* have ſuffered in *New-England* (as aforeſaid) they are not any further charged upon thee than thou haſt render'd thy ſelf guilty thereof, by acting therein, or conſenting thereto. The ſaid Perſecution (as is before briefly hinted) are truly chargeable upon the Perſecuting Magiſtrates, Prieſts and People of *New-England*: And it is our tender Deſire, that all concerned therein (who have not yet ſinned out the Day of God's tender Viſitation) may come into Godly Sorrow and Unfeigned Repentance for theſe great and Crying Sins, that they may find Mercy with the Lord God, who will reward the Blood-guilty, Hard hearted, Impenitent Ones according to their Ungodly Deeds.

Oh! it is greatly to be lamented, that the Profeſſors in *New-England* ſhould turn ſuch Cruel and Bloody Perſecutors of the Lord's People, ONLY *for the Exerciſe of their tender Conſciences* in the Worſhip of God, whoſe Worſhip is in Spirit and Truth, as our Lord Jeſus Chriſt hath ſaid; who were once Sufferers themſelves in ſome ſmall meaſure for the Exerciſe of their Conſciences in Religious Matters! Theſe Cruelties, exerciſed againſt their Peaceable Neighbours, and againſt their Country-men, who travailed out of Old *England* in the Love of God to viſit them, and to tell them what he hath done for their Souls, doth not only ſhew their great Apoſtacy from Chriſtianity, but alſo their being without Natural Affection.

John Leverat; 'Tis our Desire for thy own Good, as well as for the Just and Equal Liberty of our Friends in the Exercises of their tender Consciences in the Worship and Service of God, that thou concern thy self not further in this Evil Work; but let thy Authority be exercised to terrifie Murderers, Thieves, Drunkards, Swearers, Lyars, and to suppress Whoredoms and all Debauchery, and Ungodly and Prophane Living; and to encourage those who do live Virtuously, Soberly and Justly: and this will not only cause thee to be beloved of, and honoured by all Virtuous, Sober and Just Men and Women, who behold thee thus to exercise thy Power; but it will render thee Honoured and Blessed of God.

THE END.